

Dear Citizen: _____

This Annual Report reviews the progress made toward achieving the goals of our 1999-2000 Strategic Plan. This is part of the continuous process of systematically evaluating the nature of the agency, focusing energies on a limited number of goals, breaking down goals into long-term objectives, assessing strategies to reach these objectives, and evaluating the allocation of resources to carry out these strategies. It is helpful to understand the nature of our business in order to evaluate our plan. Public health practice is the application of a variety of sciences aimed at protecting the public's health and promoting healthy lifestyles. The application of public health principles has increased both the lifespan and the quality of life of each citizen in our community.



A child's handprint is used throughout the report to highlight principles for the goals from our 1999-2000 Strategic Plan. Limiting our scientists and educators to five principles for each goal encourages us to concisely articulate the main take-home message. It is our hope that you learn something new or think about a practice you can change to improve your health as a result of reading this report.

Accountability is the reason for writing an annual report and a strategic plan. The 1999-2000 Strategic Plan was built around thirteen outcome indicators. These indicators can be measured against national and state rates and the past performance of our health district. We strive to provide accurate, reliable, understandable, and timely information on the health status of our community and the action we are taking to improve that health status.

We expect you to hold us to the highest standards of practice. As we make decisions that affect the public's health, we seek out and apply the most current scientific knowledge. We value your comments and would appreciate hearing from you regarding this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy A. Holley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy A. Holley
Director